

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nora Stein-Fernandez on 09 February 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claim 25

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art made of record discloses the invention as claimed. See also the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Final Rejection of 28 July 2008. Amended claim 25 has been cancelled as it was a duplicate to that of claim 3. Further, the Applicant has cited Gardner (US 1,323,042). While Gardner discloses a toothbrush similar to the Applicant's invention, Gardner does not disclose an intermediate bristle carrying pad that is adjacent to the first link region and that is widthways enlarged relative to the first link region so that it is a region of maximum width of the middle section between the tip pad and base end of the head having a length of 20-40% of the length of the middle section between the tip end of the head and the base end of the head

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and having 50% or more of its length in the longitudinal half of the toothbrush head closest to the handle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura C. Guidotti whose telephone number is (571) 272-1272. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am - 5pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on (571) 272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura C Guidotti/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3727

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